

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 NSC-05 DHA-02 INR-05 SAB-01

EB-04 PRS-01 CIAE-00 NSCE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-01 L-01

SNM-02 OES-02 VO-01 ( ISO ) W

-----009957 130040Z /75

P 122330Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4226

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 13530

LIMDIS

FROM COUNSELOR NIMETZ FOR CHRISTOPHER, TODMAN AND COOPER

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MX, US

SUBJECT: ROEL VIEWS ON UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS AND U.S.-  
MEXICAN RELATIONS

FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL INVITED ME TO HIS HOME, AFTER  
THE SOCIAL WORKING GROUP MEETING HAD CONCLUDED, FOR AN  
HOUR AND A HALF PRIVATE MEETING. HIS MAIN THEME WAS  
DEEP CONCERN FOR THE U.S.-MEXICAN RELATIONSHIP IN LIGHT  
OF OUR ANNOUNCED UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN PROGRAM. HE MADE  
THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

1) UNDER PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO AND FONSEC ROEL AN  
ATTEMPT WAS BEING MADE TO STRENGTHEN THE U.S. RELATION-  
SHIP AND REVERSE THE UNFORTUNATE TREND DURING  
MEXICO'S PRIOR ADMINISTRATION. HE REFERRED TO THE  
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EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE TWO PRESI-  
DENTS AND HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND  
AMBASSADOR LUCEY.

2) THIS POSITIVE POLICY WAS REFLECTED IN MEXICO'S SUP-  
PORTIVE EFFORTS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA AND IN ACTIVE  
SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY.

3) MEXICO HAD ALSO BEEN EXTREMELY SUPPORTIVE WITH RESPECT TO OUR PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS AT THE RECENT BOGOTA MEETING. (I THANKED HIM FOR HIS HELP.)

4) MEXICO'S NARCOTICS INTERDICTION AND ERADICATION PROGRAM WAS A BURDEN BUT WAS PROVING VERY SUCCESSFUL.

5) IN OTHER AREAS TOO, SUCH AS FAMILY PLANNING, MEXICO WAS BEING COOPERATIVE AND FORWARD-LOOKING.

6) HOWEVER, MEXICO HAS ALWAYS HAD A STRONG NATIONALISTIC ELEMENT IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY, AND NO ADMINISTRATION CAN BE SEEN AS ACCEPTING U.S. DOMINATION. CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES MAKE THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS ESPECIALLY SEVERE. UNFAVORABLE U.S. PRESS REPORTS WERE PARTICULARLY ANNOYING.

7) THE UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN ISSUE IS A DEEP-SEATED PROBLEM CAUSED BY YEARS OF INACTION, INCLUDING POPULATION PROBLEMS IN MEXICO, ECONOMIC INEQUALITY, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF IMMIGRATION BY U.S. EMPLOYERS. IT CANNOT BE SOLVED OVERNIGHT, ALTHOUGH THIS MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IS WORKING VERY HARD TO BEGIN OR EXPAND POSITIVE PROGRAMS.

8) THE NEW U.S. PROGRAM, IF IMPLEMENTED HARSHLY, CAN HAVE AN EXTREMELY DETRIMENTAL EFFECT. THE GREATEST FEAR OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE GOM IS THAT THE LAW-ENFORCEMENT ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM (INCREASED BORDER ENFORCEMENT, EMPLOYER SANCTIONS) WILL MOVE FORWARD, WHILE THE HUMANITARIAN ELEMENTS (ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS, INCREASED LEGAL IMMIGRATION AND WORK PROGRAMS, AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE) WILL NOT BE APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS, OR WILL BE IMPLEMENTED SLOWLY AND IN A NIGGARDLY MANNER.

9) THE PRESSURE ON THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT BECOME ENORMOUS--POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY--AND ALREADY LABOR AND AGRICULTURAL GROUPS AND BORDER GOVERNORS ARE ACCUSING ROEL OF NOT BEING TOUGH ENOUGH.

10) WHAT IS NEEDED IS TIME--THROUGH REASONABLE AND HUMANE IMPLEMENTATION--AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

11) WITH RESPECT TO THE LATTER, ROEL INDICATED THAT THROUGH THE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM HE WOULD BE APPROACHING THE USG WITH MEXICO'S NEEDS, NOTING PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMITMENT TO HELP AFFECTED SOURCE NATIONS IN HIS AUGUST 4 STATEMENT.

12) ROEL WONDERED WHETHER HE SHOULD COME TO WASHINGTON TO

LOBBY THE CONGRESS PERSONALLY. (I SAID I WOULD GIVE HIM  
OUR VIEWS ON THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AFTER CONSULTING  
OUR LEGISLATIVE EXPERTS.)

IN GENERAL, I TRIED TO REASSURE ROEL, EMPHASIZING OUR  
APPRECIATION OF HIS EFFORTS AND OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE  
POSSIBLE IMPACT OF THE UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN PROBLEM ON  
MEXICO. THESE ARE PROBLEMS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED JOINTLY  
AND CONSTRUCTIVELY, AND WE HAVE MADE A GOOD START. I  
ASSURED HIM THAT MEXICO, AND HE PERSONALLY, ARE HIGHLY  
REGARDED IN WASHINGTON AND URGED HIM TO IGNORE DAY-TO-DAY  
PRESS REPORTS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO WORK TOGETHER TO  
AMELIORATE THE EFFECTS OF THE UNDOCUMENTED WORKER  
PROGRAM SO THAT IT DOES NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE BASIC  
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RELATIONSHIP. WE HAVE MADE A GOOD START, I CONCLUDED,  
AND THROUGH CLOSE CONSULTATIONS, COOPERATIVE ECONOMIC

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 NSC-05 DHA-02 INR-05 SAB-01  
EB-04 PRS-01 CIAE-00 NSCE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-01  
OES-02 VO-01 ( ISO ) W  
-----009925 130039Z /75

P 122330Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4227

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 13530

ACTIVITIES AND OTHER POLITICALLY ATTRACTIVE STEPS WE  
CAN SUCCESSFULLY OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM, OR AT LEAST  
REDUCE ITS NEGATIVE IMPACT. LUCEY

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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